

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, April 7, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 7, 1842

. . . . Lord Ashburton has arrived and occupies Mr. St. Clair Clarks 1 fine house, by the St. Johns Church. He has rented the whole house and

1 Matthew St. Clair Clarke, clerk of the House of Representatives; the house, 1525 H Street, still standing, though changed.

class=MsoNormal>0174 150 furniture, and pays Clark for them at the rate of $10,000 per annum. From the enormous quantity of baggage, including carriages, he has brought with him one would think he expected to be here a twelve month at least. How long he will be here I know not, nor can I predict the result of his mission; but I confess I have not much faith in a successful termination of it. There are several difficult points to settle, but in my opinion the most important and difficult is that in relation to the right of search, for the suppression of the slave trade. That is a right the President will never consent to yield, as contended for by Great Britain, be the consequences what they may. This slave trade is a mere pretext , a cloak to cover the real object and designs of England, which is a complete supremacy of the seas!